

2. STATUS OF THE NILGIRI LANGUR *PRESBYTIS JOHNI*
(FISCHER) IN THE NILGIRIS

I had the opportunity of going through the paper of G. U. Kurup (1975) about the "Status of the Nilgiri Langur, *Presbytis johni* in the Anamalai, Cardamom and Nilgiri hills of the Western Ghats, India. Probably he was not able to correctly determine the status of this langur in the Nilgiris. During my last 15 months' stay in the Nilgiris about 8 months I spent searching for the Black-and-Orange Flycatcher (Ecology and behaviour of this bird is my present subject of study) among the sholas. Most of the time I was walking along and amongst the sholas located between 4500 and 8000 feet above mean sea level. Casual trips have been made to cover areas up to 2500 feet that is Gudalur, Mudumalai, Masinagudi, and other areas. Recently I visited the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumuli, Peermade and a part of Cardamom and Kannan Devan hills of Kerala. I have also covered Bandipur and Nagarhole Wildlife Sanctuaries and Brahmagiri Hills of Karnataka. The Nilgiri Langur seemed to be more common in the Nilgiris than any other spots I have so far covered in the Western Ghats.

Within about 5 km of Ootacamund town, the most populated and advanced hill station of South India there are at least 4 troops of this langur. Two troops are present in the Governor's and Andy's corner sholas and two along Ooty-Kotagiri bus route. Altogether I have seen 3 troops along above route, 5 or 6 troops between Schoolmund and Pykara, and 4 or 5 troops between T. R. Bazar and Naduvattum all along the ghat section of the Mysore road. The sholas around Upper Bhavani, Mullumund and Avalanche, Sispara Pass, Bangitappal, Koru Kundah, Nilgiri Peak, Mukurti Peak, Mukurti, Chinna Mukurti, etc.,

also support a good number of troops which were heard and a few seen by Mr. E. R. C. Davidar, Mr. R. Sugathan, and myself. Mr. Davidar is a naturalist of the Nilgiris and is currently trying to determine the status of the Nilgiri Tahr, while Mr. Sugathan is studying the Blackwinged Kite in these hills. They are also of the opinion that it is fairly common in the Nilgiris around the heights indicated above.

The presence of the Nilgiri Langur around 2000 m (Kurup 1975) may be explained in the following ways.

(1) In the Nilgiris the sholas from 5000 ft up to the highest summit (Doddabetta c. 8600 ft) are completely devoid of the Common Langur *Presbytis entellus* (Dufresne), and Bonnet Macaque, *Macaca radiata* (Geoffroy) is to be seen occasionally. Whereas these two species are common below 5000 ft that is in Segur Range, Mudumalai, Bandipur and Nagarhole Wildlife Sanctuaries. It is likely that the Nilgiri Langur avoids competition by selecting typical sholas here.

(2) There is a continuity of distribution of the Nilgiri Langur in Attapadi forests of Kerala and Mukurti and other sholas of Western plateau of the Nilgiris. This langur can be seen in Mukurti area. At the same time they could be heard in the Silent Valley some thousand feet down. That is its habitat is more or less continuous here, whereas the Pykara range abruptly ends in Masinagudi area of Segur range leaving grass-covered hills in between.

(3) It seems that more people with valid permits go for shooting small game in Segur and Masinagudi areas than in the typical sholas. Sound of fire-arms usually terrifies the

langurs. Probably the Common Langur is more tolerant to all these. More people and cattle visit deciduous forests than sholas around 6000 ft.

(4) Like the Common Langur, if undisturbed, the Nilgiri Langur probably does not mind residing around homesteads within the vicinity of the sholas, e.g. Pykara, Schoolmund, Naduvattum, Avalanche, and Andy's Corner troops. Prater (1971) has rightly said that they (Nilgiri Langurs) are not confined to forest and may invade gardens and cultivated woodland. They live at levels ranging from 3000 up to 7000 feet.

(5) Food material is abundant in the sholas throughout the whole year than in the deciduous forests. In the former, the Nilgiri

Langur can feed on young leaves and tender shoots which are present throughout the year. Moreover this langur loves eating fruits and buds of *Acacia melanoxylon* usually cultivated and run wild around 6000 feet.

(6) Kurup (1971) said that by and large the distribution in the general range (in Anamalai) was found to be rather patchy, with preferred pockets even in seemingly contiguous, suitable areas. The same also holds good for its distribution in the Nilgiris.

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3. A SURVEY OF BITES AND OTHER INJURIES INFLICTED BY RHESUS MACAQUE *MACACA MULATTA* ON MAN IN MAROTH VILLAGE (RAJASTHAN, INDIA) (With a text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

The Rhesus Macaque, *Macaca mulatta* (Zimmermann), the common macaque of northern India is found in forests as well as near human habitations. It is pugnacious by nature and has a tendency to bite when handled in the laboratory and in field (Singh 1969; Valerio *et al.* 1969; and others). But no surveys

of such bites or other injuries inflicted by it in the natural state on human beings appear to have been made.

From 1968 to 1971 I carried out a survey of bites and nail scratches in a small free-living population in and around Maroth village c. 27°15'N., 75°15'E., Nagaur district, Rajasthan.

In December 1971, the free-living Rhesus